

NOTES FOR THE CURIOUS.

The Last Man's Society of Cincinnati and Some of Its Peculiar Features.

The Wonderful Eyes of an Lad Who Never Drinks Water.

How Astrologers Cast a Horoscope—The Mystery of a Pack of Cards—An Iowa Wonder.

In January, 1881, old Dr. Vattier died in Cincinnati. He was the last representative of one of the most uncanny societies, the Thirteen club not excepted, that has ever been organized in the United States. About fifty years before the death of Dr. Vattier, seven of the most prominent citizens of the city on the Ohio, Dr. Vattier included, organized what was to be known as the "Last Man's Society." An agreement was signed by each to meet once a year for a social dinner as long as they lived. In case of the death of any of the members the others were to attend his funeral and assist in the burial ceremonies. At the annual banquet the empty chairs of the dead were to be placed at the table, and dinner provided as usual for the full number. A bottle of wine was sealed and securely locked in a casket and the key thrown away, with the agreement that the last living member should break the lock and drink the wine after the death of all the others. The wine casket was placed in the hands of Mr. Lawson, who, just prior to his death, asked another member, Mr. Tatum, to take possession of it. The thoughts of having the horrid thing about is believed to have caused the death of Tatum. During his sickness, which happened soon after he had taken the casket, he begged to have it removed from his house, which was accordingly done. After the sixth death had occurred in the little society, the casket fell to Dr. Vattier, the sole surviving heir, who, according to his pledge, broke the lock and drank the contents of the bottle. For several years Dr. Vattier was the only member of the "Last Man's Society," regularly each year he sat down to a banquet provided for six, but none but himself at the feast; only six empty chairs in memory of his dead friends.

Most Wonderful Eyes.

John Thomas Heslop of Birmingham, England, is a lad whose powers of vision are to be accounted amongst the marvelous. He is known as "the living microscope" on account of being able to see the most minute objects clearly defined. In 1878 and 1879 he was attacked with some baffling eye trouble and came very near losing his sight forever. After the disease had reached its worst there was an instant and startling change for the better, which resulted in a complete cure of all inflammation in an incredibly short time. It was not a cure, however, that brought back the old eyesight like that possessed by the average person. When it returned it was with extraordinarily increased powers of vision. To John Thomas the most minute plant louse was as large as a rabbit and the mosquito's bill as large as an axe handle.

He could see and describe distant minute objects with startling clearness and precision. He was amazingly shocked upon repairing to the well to get a cooling draught to see the immense number of hideous creatures that were floating, fighting and wriggling about in the water. From that day to this water has never passed the lips of John Thomas Heslop; his drink consists wholly of coffee, tea and milk, thoroughly boiled. The doctors say that the entire organization of the eye has undergone a structural change; that the cornea has become abnormally enlarged and that the crystalline lens have divided into three different discs or circles, each circle surrounded by another of light blue. In the centre of each of these three circles appears an iris, greatly diminished in size, but an iris nevertheless. Medical reports have been made on the case by journals, such as the Lancet, Medical Times and many others. The young man has been visited by all the greater and lesser lights of the British medical colleges, each of whom pronounce his case the most wonderful in the annals of optics.

How Astrologers Cast a Horoscope.

The general idea in casting a horoscope was that the first hour of each day was presided over by the heavenly body that belonged to that day, as set forth in the French names for the days of the week, viz.: The sun for Sunday, the moon for Monday, Mars for Mardi (Tuesday), Mercury for Mercredi (Wednesday), Jupiter for Jeudi (Thursday), Venus for Vendredi (Friday), and Saturn for Samedi (Saturday).

The second hour of the day belonged to the second in this order, and so on, repeating these seven deities as often as was necessary until the birth hour was reached. If, therefore, we wish to cast a horoscope of a child born at 9 a. m. on March 2, 1889, we observe first that the day was Tuesday, the first hour, then 6:30 to 7:34, belongs to Mars; the second, 7:34 to 8:34, to Mercury; the third, 8:34 to 9:34, to Jove, and the child, being born under the influence of Jove, will necessarily have a jovial disposition.

A Pack of Common Cards.

There is more mystery and history connected with a pack of common playing cards than the average man or woman is aware of. The four kings originally represented David, Alexander, Caesar and Charlemagne. Distinctive features are given these in some styles of French cards, the original names being still retained by that people. The other forms of pictures is the representation of the kings in old Jewish costume, or even in Greek, Roman and Frankish styles. The queens in the same pack are usually Judith, Pallas, Esther and Argine, which latter is a mere transposition of the letters in "regina," making queen by descent. In fact, history has been ransacked abroad for figures to replace the barbarous effigies which have become historical, but sooner or later the effigies are again restored.

American playing cards have presented as great a variety in this direction as foreign ones. Shortly after the Revolution, one, R. Sanzani invented a pack for our forefathers' use. Instead of kings there were Washington, Adams, Franklin and Lafayette. For queens, Venus, Fortuna, Ceres and Minerva were represented. Indian chiefs provided the knaves. To-day a pack of them are considered a valuable addition to any museum. The origin of playing cards has been and

is still a disputed point. Some historians ascribe their first use to the Chinese, who, in spite of the bad name they enjoy to-day, were parents of most of the useful and ingenious things of the earth, if the antiquarians do not perjure themselves. By others the Hindus are ascribed as being the creators of the game. However this may be it is known that to this day the Hindus play a fantastic game with packs which number 96 cards; eight suits of 12 each. The story that cards were introduced in Europe for the amusement of the mad King Charles II. of France has long since been disproved. They were known in that country long before the demented monarch was born.

Iowa's Walled Lake.

The greatest wonder in the state of Iowa and perhaps in any other state, is what is called the "Walled Lake," in Wright county, twelve miles north of the Dubuque and Pacific railroad and 150 miles west of Dubuque City. The lake is from two to four feet higher than the surrounding country. In some places the walls are ten feet high, fifteen feet wide at the bottom and five at the top. Another fact is the size of the stones used in construction, all of them varying in weight from three tons down to 100 pounds. There are an abundance of stone in Wright county, but surrounding the lake to the extent of about ten miles there is none. No one can form an idea as to the means employed to bring them to the spot where they were made a part and parcel of the great wall. In the spring of 1856 there was a great storm and the ice on the lake forced down the wall in several places, making it necessary for the farmers to repair it or suffer serious inundation. The lake occupies a ground surface of 2,800 acres, depth of water as great as thirty-five feet. The water is clear and cold; soil loamy and sandy. It is singular that no one has been able to ascertain where the water comes from or where it goes, yet it is always clear and fresh.

THE MARKETS.

STOCKS.

NEW YORK, Nov. 8.—Bar silver 95%. Copper—Firm and quiet; November, \$12.10. Lead—Strong and brisk. Stocks to-day were irregular but generally weak, though there was little impression made upon prices outside of a few stocks, which were the objects of special bear manipulation. Sugar, which had received some support of late, was bought largely by the trading element and secured a handsome advance. The close was lower and close to first prices for most of the list. Government bonds dull and steady. Petroleum reached a still higher figure to-day, the price closing 1.12 on buying by Standard Oil brokers. The market opened strong at 1.10, and advanced slightly, then declined to 1.09. A sharp advance to 1.12 was followed by a reaction, after which the market closed firm at 1.12 1/2. Government bonds, 4s, 125; 4 1/2s, 104; Northern Pacific, 32 1/2; preferred, 74; Oregon Improvement, 48; Oregon Navigation, 100; Transcontinental, 34 1/2; Union Pacific, 67 1/2. Money on call easy, ranging from 3 to 6; last loan at 5; closed offered at 5. Prime mercantile paper, 5 1/2 cts. Sterling exchange, weak and quiet; sixty-day bills, \$1.80; demand, \$1.84 1/2.

CHICAGO CATTLE. CHICAGO, Nov. 8.—Cattle—Receipts, 9,000, steady, closing weak; choice to extra heaves, \$4.80; 3 1/2 cts; steers, \$2.75 to 4.50; stockers and feeders, \$1.00 to 1.50; Texas cattle, \$1.50 to 2.50; western range, \$2.00 to 3.75.

HOGS—Receipts, 20,000; steady, closing 5c. lower; mixed, \$5.00 to 5.50; heavy, \$5.50 to 6.00; light, \$5.00 to 5.15.

SHEEP—Receipts, 4,000; steady to strong; natives, \$2.50 to 3.25; westerns, \$3.00 to 4.15; Texans, \$3.25 to 4.10.

CHICAGO PRODUCE. CHICAGO, Nov. 8, 115 p. m.—Close—Wheat—Higher; Nov., 79 1/2; Dec., 80 1/2; May, 84. Corn—Steady; Nov., 32 1/2; May, 23 1/2. Oats—Steady; Nov., 19 1/2; May, 22 1/2. Pork—Steady; Nov., 65; Jan., 67 1/2. Lard—Steady; Nov., 5 1/2; Jan., 5 1/2; May, 5 1/2.

LEGAL NOTICES. DISSOLUTION—THE FIRM OF HILL & HAMMILL is this day dissolved by mutual consent. Mr. Hill continues business at the old stand, who will pay and collect any and all bills. Dated Helena, Mont., Nov. 5, 1889. E. L. HAMMILL, Q. L. HILL.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS—ESTATE OF Thomas S. Marshall, deceased. Notice is hereby given by the undersigned, administratrix of the estate of Thomas S. Marshall, deceased, to the creditors of, and all persons having claims against the said deceased, to exhibit them with the necessary vouchers, within four months after the first publication of this notice, to the said administratrix, at the office of A. C. Bohn, city of Helena, county of Lewis and Clarke, Montana territory, the same being the place for the transaction of the business of said estate, in the county of Lewis and Clarke.

Dated at Helena, T. October 19, 1889. SARAH E. MARSHALL, Administratrix of the estate of Thomas S. Marshall, deceased. First publication, Oct. 20, 1889.

NOTICE OF STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING—Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the stockholders of the Minah Consolidated Mining company will be held on the 15th day of November, A. D. 1889, at 3 o'clock p. m. of said day, at the office of the company in Masonic block, in the city of Helena, Lewis and Clarke county, Montana territory, for the purpose of electing five trustees of the company for the ensuing year. Oct. 21, 1889. J. O. BRISCOE, Pres.

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP—Notice is hereby given that the co-partnership heretofore existing between the undersigned under the firm name and style of C. H. Wood & Co., at Helena, Montana, is this day dissolved by mutual consent. Mr. C. H. Wood retiring. Mr. John Hardwick will pay all outstanding liabilities of the firm and is authorized to collect and receipt for all accounts due said firm. C. H. WOOD, J. H. HARDWICK. Dated Helena, Mont., Nov. 2, 1889.

DISSOLUTION NOTICE—THE CO-PARTNERSHIP firm of Deun & Hayes at the Triangle saloon on Helena avenue, opposite the Northern Pacific depot, has this day been dissolved by mutual consent. Mr. John Deun retiring. Mr. M. T. Hayes will continue the business at said saloon, and will pay all partnership indebtedness and collect all debts due to the late firm. M. T. HAYES, JOHN DEUN. I recommend our successor, M. T. Hayes, to the favorable consideration of the patrons of the late firm of Deun & Hayes and to my personal friends. JOHN DEUN.

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